

HENERY THOMAS AND MARY
ELLEN McMILLAN NELSON



Mary Ellen M. McMillan was born June 30, 1851, in Liverpool, England, daughter of Daniel and Janet Davis McMillan. She married Henerly Thomas Nelson. He was born October 28, 1850, at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Mary Ellen McMillan Nelson was the fourth child and second daughter in a family of six children. Mary Ellen's grandparents and parents were exiles from Scotland and had fled with others when their lives were in danger and found shelter in northern Ireland, where they lived for many years. Her grandparents and parents were devout Catholics. Many years later the LDS missionaries found this family and taught the gospel to them. They accepted it and were baptized in 1849. This was unusual for a Catholic who had been a member of the Church of England to give up their religion and join another church.

Mary Ellen had two brothers, William and Ephraim and three sisters, Phebe, Margaret and Janet. The latter two died and were buried in Liverpool, England. Mary Ellen, with her sister Phebe, came with the 125th company on the packet ship "Cynosure." She left Liverpool on May 30, 1863. J. Smith was the captain. There were 775 immigrant saints on board. Before sailing, the saints on board the ship "Cynosure" were organized into wards or companies with the following participating: George G. Cannon, as organizer; David M. Stewart, president; John S. Gleason and William G. Smith, counselors. Some other officers or Elders were Edward Clift, John Gibbs, William H. Pitt, Alexander Wickham, E. Morwick and William E. Perks.

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